

SMOG test of Readability

To calculate the SMOG reading-grade level, begin with the entire written work to be assessed and follow these steps:

1. Count 10 consecutive sentences near the beginning, 10 near the middle and 10 near the end of the text.
2. In each of these sentences, count all of the words containing three or more syllables. (an example of one set of ten sentences taken from one of the booklets offered by the American Cancer Society appears at the bottom of this page.
3. Add the total number of polysyllabic words from all 30 sentences.
4. Use the SMOG Conversion Table below to approximate the reading-grade level.

SMOG Conversion Table

<u>No. of polysyllabic words</u>	<u>Approximate Grade Level (+/- 1.5)</u>
0-2	4
3-6	5
7-12	6
13-20	7
21-30	8
31-42	9
43-56	10
57-72	11
73-90	12
91-110	13
111-132	14
133-156	15
157-182	16
183-210	17
211-240	18

Example of text: (Polysyllabic words in bold, sentence count in parentheses before the sentence)

(1) How **Chemotherapy** Works

(2) If your doctor wants you to have **chemotherapy**, it means something can be done to try and control, or even cure, your cancer. (3) Cancer is a cell that divides quickly, and is growing out of control. (4) Some **chemotherapy** kills cancer cells so your tumor shrinks or may even **disappear**. (5) Other drugs work by stopping cancer from spreading. (6) Each **anti-cancer** drug has a **different** job to do. (7) They may be given alone or with other drugs or treatments to make you better. (8) **Chemotherapy** is not new. (9) It has been helping people since the early **1950s**. (10) Today it can be **effective** in killing cancer cells.

Assuming that the other 20 sentences also have about the same number of polysyllabic words, the count will be 27 words and the grade level is 8th grade.

Remember that the patients in the two lowest levels of literacy tend to read three grade levels below the grade level they completed. So this is at about a fifth grade reading level.